Import of foreign technology for the Telecommunication sector

703. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a highlevel departmental study has been ordered into various aspects of import of foreign technology for the telecnmmunication sector, and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Work on Ramagundam-Salem-Trichur Transmission Line

704. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds were allocated for the Ramagundam-Salem-Trichur 110 kv transmission line during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how much funds have been utilised so far;

(c) what is the progress of the erection work; and

(d) by when this line will be completed as per the present schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) The Ramagundam-Salem Section of the line is being constructed by the National Thermal Power Corporation and Salem-Trichur Section by Neyveli Lignite Corporation. The year-wise funds allocated for these lines and the expenditure incurred upto January, 1988 is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Section of the line	Funds allocated 1985-86	86-87	87-88	Expenditure incurred upto 31-1-1988
Ramagundam-Salem	23.91	7 66	11.53	135 64
Salem-Trichur	—	2.19	2.95	1.86

The Ramagundam-Bangalore sections of the line have been commissioned. The Bangalore-Salem Section is scheduled for commissioning in 1988-89 and the Salem-Trichur Section in 1990-91.

Resignation of the Chairman of National Hydro Electric Power Corporation

705. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHWAHA:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has resigned; and

(b) if so, what are the circumstances leading to his resignation stating its likely impact on the functioning of the Corporation and the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) The Chairman and Managing Director of the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has sought voluntary retirement on personal grounds. His request is being processed. Government does not

anticipate any adverse impact on the functioning of the Corporation.

Potteries unit in UP

706. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned a potteries unit in Uttar Pradesh recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Registration with the Directorate General of Technical Development has recently been granted to M|s. Indian Rayon and Industries Ltd. (Unit: Royal Ceramics) for the manufacture of Vitreous and Bone China Tablewares for a capacity of 6000 MT per annum at Musafirkhana, Distt. Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh—a No Industry District.

Bengal Potteries

707. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI K. MOHANAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's final decision with regard to Bengal Potteries of West Bengal; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the workers' representatives of the unit agreed to the voluntary retirement scheme in order to revive the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Government of India decided to denotify Messrs Bengal Potteries Ltd., after considering various alternatives for its revival. However, Bengal Potteries Workers and Staff Unions and Others filed a writ petition before the Calcutta High Court who were moved by the Government of India for directing the Official Liquidator to resume winding up proceedings and the Calcutta High Court have vide their order dated 30.10.87, stayed the implementation of the Central Government's decision until further orders. Since then, the matter is sub-judice.

As regards the voluntary retirement schemes, preliminary discussions were held with the representatives of workers who insisted on nationalisation of the company.

Steps to reform public sector

708. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take steps to reform the public sector to make it more effective as the main instrument of self-reliance;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action, if any, has since been taken by Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Improvement or revamping wherever warranted is a continuous process in public sector enterprises, and the steps taken therefor have been detailed at Page-179 in Chapter-10 of Volume-1 of Public Enterprises Survey 1986-87 laid on the Table of the House on 25th February, 1988.